

Business Roundtable Meeting Meeting Notes

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Attendees: Glenn Almquist, Neil Amper, Jane Austin, Greg Benik, Laura Belson, Kelly Camp, Lori Capaldi, David Carlin, Thomas Clupny, Robert Cerio, Kathy Crawley, James Dunlap, Gary Ezovski, Jeff Fornaro, Robert Gallagher, Bill Hayden, David Hazabrouk, Richard Hittinger, Bill Howard, Gary Kaufman, Robin Main, Juan Mariscal, Philip Papoojian, Donald St. Amand, John Sinnott, Mike Walker, Arthur Yatsko

DEM Staff: Bob Ballou, Terri Bisson, Tom Getz, Terry Gray, Melinda Hopkins (meeting notes) Janet Keller, Angelo Liberti, Terry Maguire, Gerald McAvoy, Bev Migliore, Brian Moore, Elizabeth Stone, Michael Sullivan

1. Greetings and Introduction - Chair Gary Ezovski welcomed participants and led introductions.

2. June 2005 Meeting Minutes - The meeting minutes were accepted as written.

3. Presentations/Discussions:

Mandatory Commercial Recycling Regulatory Framework

Terry Gray gave a PowerPoint presentation on a proposed new approach to mandatory commercial recycling. Key concepts include the 20/80 rule, recognition, measuring results and partnerships. The approach would focus on key sectors such as large offices, retail businesses and the hospitality industry, as well as priority waste streams such as office paper, cardboard and electronic waste. DEM would allow some sorting at hauler facilities and require report. The Department is proposing a \$1 surcharge on the commercial tipping fee to pay for the program. The next steps will be to decide which sectors will be the focus, build partnerships and establish working groups.

A discussion among members took place and included the following points:

- How much is scrap paper worth today? Price fluctuates
- Previous system was fairly onerous for businesses on reporting & handling
- Will the new approach apply to large companies or office coops? Start with large companies
- Haulers sorting? Similar to RIRRC sorting facility/limited scope with permit process to prevent stockpiling
- Fee for registering haulers & recyclers? Very little burden for recyclers, easy, cheap
- Target? Similar to municipal –25% to preserve landfill life
- How measure? Through registration process.

Cesspool Phase Out Legislation

Elizabeth Stone gave a PowerPoint presentation on the cesspool phase out legislation. Roundtable members noted the importance of pursuing cesspool phaseout legislation, citing the example of delays in implementing UST regulation that resulted in environmental damage and higher cost to remediate than the cost of removing, repairing tanks in the first place.

4. Reports/Updates

Regulatory

- ISDS: Angelo Liberti gave an update on ISDS regulations. The focus is on improving design standards along with new tank standards and the variance process. It was noted that RI regulations recognize new technology. The new regulations recognize more emerging technologies based on performance. The Department worked with stakeholders to develop the regulations including RIBA, designers and installers. Fines are to be increased.

- Stormwater General Permit: DEM is now accepting public comments on Phase I Permitting. There will be a public workshop on October 11 at 5 pm, a public hearing on November 19 and comment period closes on November 20 at 4PM. Information is posted on the web.
- Used Oil: Legal issues regarding the regulations have been resolved. The regulations are designed to provide better management framework for used oil. Legal issues are resolved. DEM is submitting a final draft to EPA. The regs should be out to notice within 6 weeks. They regs reflect stakeholder discussions.
- Expedited Permitting: (See handout) Regulations will be sent to the Governor by September 23. There will be a hearing next month. The Department hopes to promulgate the regulations by December. The pilot process would allow applicants for certain types of ISDS and wetlands permits to request an expedited permit process for an additional fee. The pilot is aimed at those permit applications that are received in high numbers but that are not complex. The fee would be used to pay staff overtime for work on the expedited permits. If the permit is not processed by the expedited deadline, the applicant would get a refund. The major obstacle to the program has been that the Department has not been able to get a restricted receipt account to keep the expedited permit fees separate from general fund receipts.
- Wetlands: DEM and the Wetlands Task Force have developed a draft. It will go back to the task force in December and again in mid-January.

5. Other – Announcements

- Director Sullivan asked for volunteers to assist in upgrading the department's web site o increase the number of online licenses, registrations and permits. Contact Tom Getz with any ideas.
- The Director also said that he would like to streamline minor uncomplicated enforcement cases through use of a ticket- and- remediate system.
- In regard to Bay Day - July 30, 2006, Director Sullivan would like to get 1001 people in the bay & tributaries to test water quality as a way to get more people engaged in bay stewardship. The Director is seeking assistance from Roundtable members with supplies such as sample bottles and with lab services.
- Director Sullivan stated that he would like to revive the litter prevention programs.

6. Next Meeting Date February 2, 2006

7. Possible topics:

- Water softeners and septic systems
- Need for greater alignment among state cleanup standards
- Boiler plate Brownfields agreement